

MOVE TOWARD NONSECRET FUNDS

During the past week, at least one bi-partisan group—as well as a couple of loners—introduced bills calling for the creation of groups to carry on international activities previously subsidized by the CIA.



Rep. Dante Fascell

The idea seems to be that non-secret funds should be used to finance the anti-Red activities of voluntary groups made up of students, labor, journalists, lawyers and others willing to get in a few nice words for the U. S.

An eight-man group, comprised of three Republicans and five Democrats and headed by Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), introduced a bill calling for establishment of an Institute on International Affairs. It proposes that money be raised from private sources—such as foundations and just plain citizens, with maybe an assist from Uncle Sam if the kitty runs short—and that a group of prominent citizens be formed into a committee to see that the dough goes to the right groups.

Would Squeeze Private Groups

More intriguing—even weird—was a bill introduced by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.). He thinks revenue to support such a fund should be raised by a requirement that private foundations make a grant to the Fund for International Public Service—which is what he calls HIS group—that would equal 15% of the total amount of grants made for all purposes by the institute during the taxable year.

Failure to comply, he proposed blithely, would mean—

LOSS OF TAX EXEMPTION

—by the foundations. He said he didn't mean churches or educational organizations, nor private foundations operated exclusively for a single specific purpose.

However, the hundreds of foundations which don't fall into these categories will be yelling "foul, extortion, squeeze" and other things if McCarthy has his way.

Another bill, which falls into line with the views of a three-man presidential committee headed by Undersecretary of State Katzenbach, has been proposed by Rep. John S. Monagan (D-Conn.), who wants his baby christened the American International Cultural and Educational Council.

All of this must come as a relief to the CIA. They'll save money, and with it they'll be able to go out and hire professionals to replace the amateurs.

When you pay a pro, he works for you. Not so the mercurial amateurs—some of whom were receiving grants and gushing pro-Red propaganda at the same time.

Maybe, now, the CIA will be free to do important work.